
Appendix 8

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Timber, Fish, and Wildlife

The Timber, Fish and Wildlife (TFW) Agreement is an ongoing process for managing natural resources, resolving problems and making changes in future management of natural resources in Washington State. TFW provides the framework, procedures and requirements for managing the state's forests so as to meet the needs of a viable timber industry and at the same time provide protection for our public resources: fish, wildlife, water, and the cultural and archeological resources of Indian tribes within our state. Participants in the negotiations include representatives of Indian tribes, the environmental community, state natural resource agencies, and the timber industry. The original agreement, and later modifications to the agreement, resulted in changes to statutes, regulations and management procedures, as well as cooperative efforts by forest landowners and various interested parties. This new management system provides:

- 1) increased protection for public resources
- 2) stable, predictable and cost effective forest practice rules and regulations
- 3) increased forest practice flexibility through site specific requirements
- 4) opportunities for cooperative planning and problem solving
- 5) monitoring and evaluation to improve future forest practices

Currently, TFW is negotiating modifications to the state Forest Practices program. The goal of the negotiations is the development of a package of regulations and voluntary actions which will provide better habitat for salmon in commercial forests. Topics to be negotiated include a new watertyping system, a new riparian strategy, forest roads, hydrology, unstable slopes, pesticides, cultural issues, impacts to small landowners, water quality as it relates to the Clean Water Act, restoration, monitoring, and research. Products of successful TFW negotiations shall replace recommendations of the Lower Columbia Steelhead Conservation Initiative where they inconsistent with each other.

The negotiation sessions are scheduled for November and December of 1997 and January of 1998, with proposed recommendations expected by late February. NMFS is participating in these negotiations.

Contact Steve Bernath (DNR) or Steve Landino (NMFS) for more information on the TFW process.

Habitat Conservation Plan

The Department of Natural Resources manages 3 million acres of state lands in trust for common schools, state universities, other public institutions, and county services. About 2.1 million acres of these trustlands are forested. The department follows all applicable laws, including the Endangered Species Act, managing the lands. Since 1990, when the northern spotted owl was listed as a threatened species, the department has been subject to continually changing requirements for the management of state forest lands, which resulted in uncertainty and instability. Because of this regulatory uncertainty and the need to preserve the productivity of the trusts in perpetuity (including the protection of the long-term health of forests and the ecosystem), the department opted to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for future management of 1.6 million acres of trust lands.

The HCP allows the Department of Natural Resources to continue a sustainable timber sales program that produces hundreds of millions of dollars per year for public schools, universities and local services. The HCP accomplishes these benefits by addressing the long-term needs of fish and wildlife, including salmon and steelhead stocks. West of the Cascade Crest, the HCP provides habitat protection for steelhead, sockeye, pink, chum, chinook and coho salmon; sea-run cutthroat trout, and bull trout. The HCP allows carefully managed timber harvest within stream side buffers as long as precautions are taken to protect fish and wildlife habitat.

Implementation of the HCP has begun and will be complete by January 1, 1999. Results will be realized incrementally and increase progressively each year. Counties and parts of counties with HCP lands that are located in or adjacent to the LCSCI area include eastern Lewis, southeast Pacific, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania. Major rivers on HCP lands in the Columbia planning unit include the Cowlitz, Toutle, Coweeman, Kalama, Lewis, Washougal, Wind and Grays. Acreage for the HCP Columbia planning unit: 286,000 acres. Key partners include the USFWS and NMFS.

For more information contact Chuck Turley, Department of Natural Resources, 902-1148.

Watershed Analysis

Watershed analysis is a process that was developed by forest landowners, Indian Tribes, environmental groups and state natural resource agencies through the TFW process. It was adopted into regulation by the state Washington Forest Practices Board in 1992.

Watershed analysis is a biological and physical assessment of a watershed which addresses the cumulative effects of forest practices on specific public resources (fish, water and capital improvements of the state). Based upon the assessment, prescriptions are designed to protect and allow the recovery of public resources. These prescriptions become requirements for forest practices applications approved by the Department of Natural Resources.

Watershed analysis is performed on Watershed Administrative Units (WAUs) - areas defined by hydrology and geomorphology, ranging in size from 10,000 to 50,000 acres. There are 819 WAUs in the state. Each analysis is conducted by a team of experts from relevant scientific disciplines such as hydrology and fish biology. Each member of a team must meet minimum qualifications, including training in the watershed analysis process. DNR or non federal landowner(s) that own(s) 10% or more of the land in a WAU may assemble a team and conduct a watershed analysis. All watershed analyses are subject to approval by DNR. Each watershed analysis requires up to 4 to 5 months to complete.

DNR, in consultation with TFW cooperators, has prioritized WAUs for analysis based on the following factors:

- slope stability
- hydrology
- fisheries
- the likelihood of forest practices occurring in the near future

Once the watershed analysis is completed and the prescriptions written, the practice of forestry becomes more predictable for the landowner and those concerned with the protection of public resources. DNR can also expedite the review of forest practice applications.

There are several completed watershed analyses in or close to the LCSCI area. They include the following:

- > Elochoman, completed in 1995; primary landowners, DNR and Cavenham
- > Chehalis, completed in 1994; primary landowner Weyerhaeuser
- > Stillman, completed in 1994; primary landowner Weyerhaeuser
- > Willapa, completed in 1994; primary landowner Weyerhaeuser

Another watershed analysis which is in the prescription process and nearing completion is the Upper Coweeman. It is located on private land (Weyerhaeuser is the primary landowner) and covers approximately 45,000 acres within the Lower Columbia steelhead

ESU. Major tributaries include Baird, Mullohand, 19, Butler, O'Neil, and Skipper 'Creek. This watershed analysis is in the prescription phase and will be undergoing SEPA review. Implementation begins as soon as prescriptions are drafted and is currently underway.

(For more information on these and other completed watershed analyses north of the study area contact Nancy Sturhan, DNR Forest Practices, 902-1418).